



In this issue

- National Group B Strep Awareness Month
- Home Visitation May Reduce the Risk of Infant Death
- Recommendations to Reduce Infant Risk of Heart Defects
- Chlamydia Screening Falls Short for U.S. Women
- Report Highlights Denti-Cal

Funding Opportunity

- Maternal and Child Health Research Program

Educational Events

- Building Bridges to Optimum Health
- National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Sixth National Conference
- Minority Women's Health Summit
- Women's Health Celebration Open House 2007
- Women's Health Celebration Conference 2007
- 17th Annual CityMatCH Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference
- AHRQ's 2007 Annual Conference
- Healthy Births Through Healthy Communities Partners Symposium 2007

Employment Opportunities

- Asian Youth Center
- The Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles
- March of Dimes Los Angeles Division

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www.LABestBabies.org

July is National Group B Strep Awareness Month

Group B Strep (GBS) is a bacteria found in the gastrointestinal track and birth canal of women and can cause serious illness and death in newborns. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 25% of pregnant women carry group B strep. Although the bacterial infection is rarely serious in adults, it may cause preterm births, as well as sepsis, pneumonia and meningitis in newborns.

Despite increased GBS awareness campaigns and prevention methods, approximately 1,700 U.S. babies less than one week old were diagnosed with group B strep disease during their first week of life in 2001.

LA Best Babies Network joins CDC and Group B Strep International in observing **July as National/International Group B Strep Awareness Month** and recommends that all pregnant women be tested for group B strep at 35 to 37 weeks gestation.

Learn more:

For information on Group B Strep, visit <http://www.groupbstrepinternational.org/>

View the CDC's report "Perinatal Group B Streptococcal Disease After Universal Screening Recommendations - United States, 2003-2005" <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5628.pdf>.

Home Visitation May Reduce the Risk of Infant Death

Regular home visits to at-risk pregnant women before and after birth may reduce infant death, according to a new study published in the June 2007 issue of *Pediatrics*.

Researchers from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center compared the risk of infant death among 1,665 participants enrolled in Cincinnati's Every Child Succeeds program - a home visitation program for at-risk, first-time mothers - to 4,995 families who were not enrolled.

Study results:

- Infants whose families did not receive home visitation were 2.5 times more likely to die in infancy.
- Home visitation was associated with a 60% decreased risk of infant death.
- Not receiving proper prenatal care was largely associated with the likelihood of infant death.

The findings showed that investing in prenatal and infancy home visitation improved pregnancy outcomes and child development. "Infant mortality in the U.S. is much higher than in other countries despite large investments in care and prevention," notes Dr. Edward F. Donovan of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. "This study suggests that we may want to divert some of these resources to intensive home visiting that begins during pregnancy."

Learn more

View LA Best Babies Network's brief "Case Management/Home Visitation"

http://www.labestbabies.org/resources/pdfs/Case%20Management_Home%20Visitation.pdf

American Heart Association Releases Recommendations to Reduce Infant Risk of Heart Defects

The American Heart Association (AHA) has released new recommendations to help women who are planning pregnancy to make simple life changes before conception that will reduce the risk of giving birth to an infant with heart disease.

According to the American Heart Association, congenital cardiovascular defects are the most common birth defects in newborns. AHA estimates that approximately 9 out of 1,000 newborns will have some form of congenital heart disorder.

AHA recommends that women:

- obtain preconception care and be screened for diabetes, rubella and influenza.
- take a daily multivitamin containing 400 micrograms of folic acid.
- review the use of medication (prescribed or over-the-counter) with their healthcare provider.
- avoid contact with people who have the flu or other fever-related illnesses.

These lifestyle recommendations are for the time period before a woman becomes pregnant through the first trimester pregnancy.

Learn more:

View the American Heart Association's statement "Non-inherited Risk Factors and Congenital Cardiovascular Defects: Current Knowledge" <http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/115/23/2995>

Chlamydia Screening Falls Short for Young U.S. Women

An estimated 2 million young women go undiagnosed and untreated for chlamydia according to a report by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

The California Department of Health reports that while women in California have opportunities to access health care services, such as routine Pap smear screening, reproductive health services and family planning services, chlamydia

screening is sometimes overlooked by healthcare providers.

ACOG recommends investing in chlamydia screening because it is a strategy that would prevent 60,000 cases of pelvic inflammatory disease; 8,000 cases of chronic pelvic pain; and 7,500 cases of infertility annually.

Learn more:

View the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention chlamydia fact sheet <http://www.cdc.gov/std/Chlamydia/STDFactChlamydia.htm>

New Report Highlights Denti-Cal

The new report "Denti-Cal Facts and Figures: A Look at California's Medicaid Dental Program" highlights statistics and trends related to access, utilization and expenditures of Denti-Cal.

Key findings include:

- One in ten children under 2 years of age enrolled in Medi-Cal have had a dental visit.
- Tooth decay is the most common of all chronic childhood diseases; however, approximately one quarter of Medi-Cal beneficiaries under 12 years of age have had a dental visit.
- Only one in five pregnant Medi-Cal beneficiaries have had a dental visit.
- Latino populations use dental services least frequently.

The leading factors affecting Denti-Cal use were lack of knowledge about Denti-Cal benefits and services; difficulty finding Denti-Cal providers; language and cultural barriers; and challenges obtaining proper authorization for dental services.

Learn more:

Read the report "Denti-Cal Facts and Figures: A Look at California's Medicaid Dental Program" <http://www.chcf.org/documents/policy/DentiCalFactsAndFigures.pdf>

Funding Opportunity

Maternal and Child Health Research Program, deadline September 14, 2007

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Research Program will award grants for the Extramural Maternal and Child Health Research Program to support applied research relating to maternal and child health services. Proposals should address:

- public health systems and infrastructure
- health disparities
- quality of care
- oral health
- the health of the MCH populations on the US-Mexican border
- the use of Health Information Technology

Learn more:

View grant announcement

<https://grants.hrsa.gov/webExternal/FundingOppDetails.asp?FundingCycleId=F78A0072-59A7-44E9-8536-A9BBA8111FB1&ViewMode=EU&GoBack=&PrintMode=&OnlineAvailabilityFlag=&pageNumber=&version=&NC=&Po>

Educational Events

Building Bridges to Optimum Health: A Community Report Back Symposium on Diabetes Through the Lifespan Working Group Activities, July 24, 2007

July 24, 2007

"Building Bridges To Optimum Health: A Community Report Back Symposium on Diabetes Throughout the Lifespan Working Group Activities"

Holman United Methodist Church, 3320 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: Register now, space is limited.

Sponsored by: Healthy African American Families II, Charles R. Drew University, UCLA and RAND.

For more information, contact Healthy African American Families II at (323) 292-2002 or e-mail

healthyafricanamericanfamilies@yahoo.com. For online registration, visit www.haaf2.org

National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Sixth National Conference, August 2-4, 2007

August 2-4, 2007

"National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Sixth National Conference"

Marriott Hotel Crystal Gateway, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: July 20, 2007

All conference participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

Sponsored by: the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

Learn more:

To register, visit www.acog.org/departments/dept_notice.cfm?recno=10&bulletin=4236

Minority Women's Health Summit, August 23-26, 2007

August 23-26, 2007

"Minority Women's Health Summit"

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 20001
Registration deadline and fee: Before July 23 - \$200. After July 23 - \$225

Sponsored by: the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health.

Learn more:

To register, visit http://www.nhmamd.org/mwhs/mwhs_event2.cfm

Women's Health Celebration Open House 2007, August 23, 2007

August 23, 2007

"Open House"

Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute (LA BioMed) at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, 1124 W. Carson St., N-28, Torrance, CA 90502

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Women's Health Celebration Conference 2007, August 24-25, 2007

August 24-25, 2007

"Women's Health Celebration Conference 2007"

Double Tree Hotel, 2 Civic Plaza, Carson, CA 90475

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Early registration deadline: August 3, 2007

Lynn Yonekura, MD, senior advisor of LA Best Babies Network will be speaking on the topic "A Healthy Baby is Worth Weight" at the conference on Friday, August 24, 2007.

Learn more:

For agenda and registration form, visit www.womenshealthnp.org

17th Annual CityMatCH Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference, August 26-28, 2007

August 26-28, 2007

"Building the Best Environments for Families and Children"

Denver Marriott Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse, Denver, CO 80237

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration deadline and fee: After June 30 - \$449 for members, \$499 for non-members. Single day: After June 30 - \$200.

All conference participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

Sponsored by: CityMatCH

For more information call (402) 561-7500. To register, visit http://citymatch.org/apps/conf_agenda.php

AHRQ's 2007 Annual Conference: Improving Health Care, Improving Lives, September 26-28, 2007

September 26-28, 2007

"Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality 2007 Annual Conference: Improving Health Care, Improving Lives"

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, Bethesda, MD 20852

Registration deadline: Space is limited, advance registration is required.

Registration fee: Free

Sponsored by: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

For more information and/or to register visit <http://www.blsmmeetings.net/2007ahrqannual/index.cfm>

SAVE THE DATE Healthy Births Through Healthy Communities Partners Symposium 2007, November 14, 2007

November 14, 2007

"Healthy Births Through Healthy Communities Partners Symposium 2007"

California Endowment, 1000 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Sponsored by: LA Best Babies Network.

Attendees will share the planning, process and accomplishments of the Healthy Births Learning Collaboratives, Best Babies Collaboratives and Healthy Births Care Quality Collaborative.

Employment Opportunities

Asian Youth Center seeks a [Health Educator / Community Outreach Worker](#).

The Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles seeks an [Advertising Coordinator](#).

March of Dimes Los Angeles Division seeks a [Program Services Manager](#).

We invite you to contribute story ideas and event listings for our consideration in *Perinatal e-News*. To submit items please e-mail contact@labestbabies.org.

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